

Erwin Hanna. Ross passed peacefully on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 after 91 years of life well lived.

Ross was born in San Francisco, CA, on October 20, 1922 as the youngest of six children to Tom and Wanda Hanna. Ross grew up in the Alhambra Valley with his four brothers and sister. Ross spent his childhood roaming the hills around his home and enjoyed spending summers in the Sierras. Ross's love of the outdoors was a legacy from his grandfather, naturalist John Muir.

Soon after graduating from Alhambra High School in Martinez, Pearl Harbor was bombed and Ross enlisted in the California Coast Guard where he served in numerous landings in the South Pacific. WWII sent him to the Pacific for four years, but built friendships that continued to grow for seven decades.

After the war, he went to Stockton, CA to attend the College of the Pacific (now University of the Pacific) where he graduated with a degree in business, and was a fraternity man at Alpha Kappa Phi Fraternity. Music was a major part of Ross's life and he led the Ross Hanna Orchestra during college. There Ross met a young Gladys Ann Stoeven who would later become his bride. Ross and Gladys married in San Mateo, CA in June of 1948.

Over the next 66 years the two of them had much to celebrate. A year to the day after they were married, they welcomed their first son, Hal. They moved to Dixon soon after his birth and two years later welcomed son Michael. Four years after their two boys, they welcomed a sweet daughter, Lynne. Ross and Gladys enjoyed raising their children in Dixon.

Ross imparted his love for nature to all of his children and grandchildren. Pack trips in the mountains, fishing in streams and lakes, hiking and enjoying nature are all a part of their memories. Ross left this life to join his parents Tom and Wanda Hanna, brothers Strent, John, Dick and Bob, his sister Jean and numerous family and friends who have gone before him. Ross is survived by his loving wife Gladys of 66 years; son Hal and wife Kathleen, son Michael Muir and daughter Lynne Hanna-Lincoln; grandchildren Tim Hanna and wife Jamie, Liz Fuller and husband James, Allison Theubet and husband Jerry and Mei-Lin Hanna. Ross lived to see eight great-grandchildren join his family; Kilian, Stephen, Natalie, Timmy, Gabby and Kolbe Theubet and Ross and Matthew Fuller. Ross will be missed by immeasurable friends and family members, but his love and music will play in their hearts forever.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MAYOR GEORGE VUKOVICH

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of former Mayor George Vukovich of Youngstown, Ohio who passed away on Monday, July 28, 2014 at the tender age of 87 with his wife of 64 years, Helen, by his side. He was a dedicated and compassionate public servant, serving for over 20 years as the Seventh Ward Councilman, Clerk of Youngstown Municipal Court, and Mayor of Youngstown.

When I first started my political career I was lucky enough to have spent time with George. He always had great stories to tell of the good old days. But more importantly he always gave good advice and counsel. I will always remember how much he talked about and treasured his family, especially his grandkids. I really enjoyed our time together.

Mayor Vukovich served as mayor from 1979–1983 and oversaw the city during one of its darkest hours. Although Youngstown was suffering from massive job loss due to the decline of the steel industry, Mayor Vukovich was able to hold the city together during one of its most trying seasons. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army who loved his community. Mayor Vukovich was also active in the Youngstown Democratic Party, a member of the Catholic War Veterans, the Croation Fraternal Union (Lodge 185, Campbell), and St. Angela Merici Parish (Sacred Heart of Jesus). He treasured spending time with his family, as well as hosting visits from loved ones, especially his grandchildren who were his greatest joy. He and his wife spent many winters in Florida during retirement where they enjoyed boating and long walks on the beach.

Mayor Vukovich is survived by his beloved wife Helen; his daughters, Carol and Sonia; grandchildren, Carrie, Michael, Carly, and Katie; brothers Peter and Henry, an abundance of loved ones and friends. George has been preceded in death by his loving parents, sisters Ann and Helen, as well as his brothers Jack, John, and Thomas. I am proud to honor the life of Mayor George Vukovich. The city of Youngstown is forever indebted to honorable years of his service. Youngstown is a much better place to call home because of his valiant work. My deepest condolences go out to his family and close friends. George will be deeply missed but his courageous spirit will forever live on through the hearts and lives he has touched.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,618,599,653,160.19. We've added \$6,991,722,604,247.11 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

FIRST RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHER SOLD

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, across this nation tens of thousands of children live with rare pediatric diseases, such as childhood cancers,

that threatens their bright futures. As the chairman of the Childhood Cancer Caucus, I have personally met with dozens of children and their families who are desperate for treatments.

Since the 1980s, only one new treatment has been developed for children with cancer. Sadly, for many other rare pediatric diseases, no Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatment exists at all. That is why I introduced the Creating Hope Act in 2011, to create an incentive for drug companies to develop new treatments for children with rare pediatric diseases, such as pediatric cancers.

Without any cost to the taxpayer, the Creating Hope Act established a priority review voucher (PRV) for rare pediatric diseases as Sec. 908 of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. As an incentive for developing a new rare pediatric disease treatment, a company can be awarded a PRV by the FDA. The voucher entitles a company to a priority six month review of another new drug application that would otherwise be reviewed under the FDA's standard ten month review period. Companies can also choose to sell or transfer the voucher to another drug sponsor.

On Valentine's Day this year the first rare pediatric disease PRV was awarded to BioMarin for Vimizim to treat Morquio A Syndrome. There are fewer than 800 kids in the United States with Morquio A Syndrome. Vimizim will help children living with this terrible disease to live a longer and healthier life. That's what every kid should have.

And just this week, BioMarin sold its voucher to Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi for \$67.5 million. This will allow BioMarin to reinvest their new earnings in even more products to treat rare and ultra-rare diseases. And it will allow Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi to speed up FDA review of Alirocumab, an experimental drug designed to lower low-density lipoprotein cholesterol in patients who have previously tried other treatments. This is a win-win for the companies, but best of all this will benefit patients.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this news demonstrates the value of this important program. As Dr. Ned Braunstein, Regeneron's Vice President for Regulatory Affairs, said after his company announced that it was buying BioMarin's voucher, the "decision to acquire and leverage the voucher is clear evidence that this program is a valuable incentive for biopharmaceutical companies."

Many people deserve credit for helping to make the Creating Hope Act a reality. Congressman FRED UPTON, the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS, the Vice Chair of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, and former Congresswoman Sue Myrick, were all tremendous champions of this law. So too were many countless advocates, but most of all Nancy Goodman. A mother and an advocate, Nancy is the founder and executive director of Kids V Cancer, which is fighting to change the landscape of pediatric research.

More children deserve life-saving treatments which is why I hope to work with my colleagues to make the rare pediatric disease Priority Review Voucher program permanent. As a father I can think of nothing more important than investing in our children's futures.